



July 12, 1999

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Dear Ted,

Further to my last letter of July 8, I have talked with [redacted]. This most recent conversation has caused me to rethink my position somewhat, since my biggest complaint (that she adopted a superior tone) was not in evidence. I have reported relevant information from the below (but not its entirety) to [redacted], which put her in a better mood. I found myself in a good mood when I got off the phone, and must say that she was very charming, nice, and it was a pleasure to talk with her.

[redacted] clarified the tapes-issue. You will recall [redacted] report that there was information that TK did not want me to hear. It turns out that she also told me this, and asked what she should do. I told her that the Feds could subpoena anything any time they like, so if there were anything she would not want to give *them* she should destroy it. I then suggested that she edit out portions that she wanted to omit while preserving the majority. She then said there was a lot of her "yacking," which I already knew from your account.

In reference to your letter about an interview with Iyad Ishmael, she said that you were "so cute" and then read a portion in which you had written that she was "a number one" and "great." I thought this lacked discretion on her part, which will be a recurring theme with her. She found the suggestion that she interview Ishmael amusing. Her actual word choice was "hysterical," by which she meant to signify amusement and not the 19th-century disorder. Some other quotes from our conversations as taken in note form: "The Feds must be doubled over laughing." (I suppose she may have been trying to deflect any suspicions had there been a Fed listening in via wire-tap.) "My picture will end up being a pin-up with a pen in my mouth." (This was in reference to interview requests by other inmates.) "I'll have a collection of letters from the world's greatest terrorists." (I was struck by the manner in which she positioned herself within the construction. I do not doubt that she espouses radical views, at all, nor do I imply it.)

There was only one major point where I thought she definitely needed to be more careful. She told me about a portion of the interview during which you discussed pieing actions. She then told me that you had said something along the lines that those pies may someday be guns. Immediately, she told me about the apple-mulberry pies you baked while living in Illinois. And then....that the most recent pieing had been *reportedly* perpetrated by one Agent Apple-

Mulberry. The progression is a little worrisome since it could be construed that you had something to do with the pie incident. I know as a matter of fact from [redacted] that you did *not* have anything to do with it. But [redacted] did tell people about the apple-mulberry pies at the rendezvous. She thought it was great that such a report had surfaced. I do not, since it could be construed in less joyous terms by the authorities. [redacted] agrees with me.

More potential inaccuracy, Zerzan has apparently told her (and others) that your papers are going to be kept at the University of Michigan. I told her that this was not settled and she should not tell people about it. People certainly talk a lot! Perhaps I was wrong to tell her that she shouldn't discuss your archive's final home, but my will to confidentiality is very strong.

During my conversation with her, [redacted] asked if I would look over her article and provide editorial suggestions. I did ~~do~~, and enclose a copy of the email correspondence. She also wanted help dealing with the media. We will discuss this when she visits New York.

So, I no longer feel personal misgivings about [redacted] She has a positive character that, while it may have "young" tendencies (e.g.: gossip), is both intelligent and cheerful. I am not sure that her judgment is oriented to all possible situations. But she was very charming when I spoke to her, there were no more presumptuous remarks, and I felt comfortable.

We are currently getting page-proofs for you to work the final legal edits into. I think this will speed things up. You can interleaf changes with the proofs, and seeing everything on a page may also effect the way you read it (the all-powerful printed word at work) and aid you in the work.

I spent a good portion of the weekend working in our garden. (There is a rather large yard behind the convent where I live now). Now? Yes, I recently moved in with a woman, her name is [redacted] We have known each other for 6 months, and have now developed a romantic attachment. She occupied the building with some friends about nine years ago. It had stood empty for years. Through some seldom-used laws, they were able to take it over (homesteading) from the city and turn it into a legally-occupied, comfortable place.

About four years ago they successfully applied for state money to fix the structure, which was named a historical site around the same time. A contractor was hired to do some restoration as part of the deal. The work included landscaping during which they removed a parking lot and replaced it with a garden. O those idiot landscapers! The landscape contractor was given free license to do as he pleased back there because no one resident there at the time (including [redacted]) had the foresight to take control and give the project direction. He did an okay, if uninspired, job. But I call him an idiot because of one particular wrong move. He decided to make a border of cobblestones around all of the planting areas. Not so bad, but he set them in a trough of cement that measures one foot deep by a foot and a half wide. Using a steel wrecking bar, I had to work all of this crap out of the ground hunk by heavy hunk. It didn't take very long (about three hours) but my back is very sore today from the effort. (I am in good shape, but this required some neglected combinations of muscle contractions to which I was unused.)

A woman named _____ has taken control of the garden plan, and she is doing a terrific job. We are building a hill with a rill that leads to a reflection pool that empties into another rill that leads in turn to another pool. It will be very beautiful. (She wanted me to pull up the cobblestone to give the garden a less municipal appearance and we needed the fill.) Part of the garden is dedicated to vegetables. When I lived in Sweden, we grew potatoes. _____ is from Poland (the convent is in a Polish/Italian/Dominican neighborhood). You'd think she would grow potatoes. I have yet to prevail with her on this score. At present we have cucumbers, tomatoes, various greens and legumes. The soil was so toxic that they had to bring in soil from upstate. It is hard recreating nature in the city, and it is kind of sad (i.e.: pathetic).

Reading your responses to _____ was great, thanks. I have a similar "belief system" when it comes to fishing. I thank them for letting me catch them and assure the lake that they will be eaten. On more serious points I believe we are also very often on the same page.

I would like to interview you. I talked to _____ about the possibility of accompanying her on the next interview. I am not sure that I can. But if you still want me to interview you, let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.

I hope this note finds you well.

*Yours,
Brian.*